

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT A 01456 242110Z

55

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15

MMS-03 IGA-02 RSR-01 /113 W
----- 047976

R 242015Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6896

INFO SECDEF

JCS

CINCSO

S E C R E T PORT AU PRINCE 1456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSFERRING US SOUTHCOM FROM CANAL ZONE

REF: STATE 164406

1. WE BELIEVE THAT FEW HAITIANS, INSIDE OR OUT OF THE GOH, UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF U.S. SOUTHCOM OR ARE EVEN AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE IN PANAMA. U.S. SOUTHCOM'S PRESENT LOCATION, THEREFORE, HAS VIRTUALLY NO EFFECT NOW ON DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY OR POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THIS SMALL ISLAND COUNTRY. IT DOES NOT PROMPT ALLEGATIONS OR FEARS OF EXPLOITATION OR MILITARY DOMINATION. ON THE CONTRARY, THE GOVERNMENT IN HAITI COUNTS HEAVILY ON THE SHIELD OF U.S. MILITARY PROTECTION AND WELCOMES DEMONSTRATIONS OF U.S. INFLUENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. HAITI WOULD PROBABLY VOLUNTEER TO HOST U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON ITS OWN SOIL, SHOULD THEY BE NEEDED. THE U.S. NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO IS WELL KNOWN AND THE U.S. PRESENCE THERE IS WELCOMED BY THE HAITIANS.

2. SHOULD U.S. SOUTHCOM BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY AS FAR AWAY AS WASHINGTON,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PORT A 01456 242110Z

SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE REGRETTEED BY THE HAITIANS, TO THE

EXTENT THAT IT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. INTEREST AND INFLUENCE FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. A TRANSFER OF U.S. SOUTHCOM TO PUERTO RICO, HOWEVER, MIGHT APPEAL TO THE HAITIANS AS AN INDICATION OF INCREASED IMPORTANCE AND PROTECTION FOR THE CARIBBEAN.

3. HAITI HAS LITTLE DIRECT STAKE IN THE OPERATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL. THERE ARE NO HAITIAN FLAG LINES AND LITTLE OF ITS COMMERCE IS WITH PACIFIC PORTS. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SECURITY, HOWEVER, THE STATIONING OF U.S. TROOPS IN THE CANAL ZONE IS VIEWED BY HAITIANS AS AN IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO GUARD ITS INTERESTS IN THE CANAL AND CARIBBEAN. IF IT WERE TO BE CONSULTED, THE GOH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY STRONGLY FAVOR CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY COMBAT TROOP PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE.
CORCORAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PORTA01456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MEALUM
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730817/aaaaamcj.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 164406
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSFERRING US SOUTHCOM FROM CANAL ZONE
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005